MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2003

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Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

Your Museum And Society

Our gardens look good from many vantage points. Photo: Susan Wineberg

We've been very busy even though we have not mounted an exhibit over the summer. Our building has finally had its rear doors re-hung (no more nasty plywood spoiling its elegant lines). We are now working on repairing the fence, fixing the ramp in the rear, replacing the rusting basement door and providing a larger drain at the bottom of the stairs to the basement. **Bill Click**, owner of **Model Construction Inc.** of Willis, and a recent graduate of the Historic Preservation Program at EMU, has done a great job. We hope he can solve these problems soon, since we had a flooded basement again after a heavy downpour in late July. President Pauline Walters commented that everything NEW in the museum has failed, while everything OLD in the original house is as solid as a rock!

Our biggest accomplishment is that we are now advertising for a **part-time Director** for the Museum. Many thanks to **Randy LaHote** for chairing this committee and finalizing the job description. The Director will have the responsibility of the day-to-day operation of the Museum, the management of the staff and volunteers, the exhibition and education programs, promotion and fund-raising. Museum experience, computer skills, and fund-raising experience are preferred. This half-time position will pay $18,500. If you are interested, submit a letter, resume and references to **Search Committee, P O. Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.** We have been receiving resumes since we announced this position last month and we will begin reading and evaluating them in October. If you are interested in applying, or know someone who is, the application can be found on our website at **www.washtenawhistory.org/**.

You will soon be receiving a useful item from us asking you to ***"Get a Grip on History."*** We hope that in getting a grip you'll pry open your checkbook and help us get a grip on all our house repairs that never seem to end! Look for it in your mailbox.

Our **Museum Shop** did very well at the Art Fair selling items at the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium booth to the tune of $155.68. **Sue Kosky** is always looking for in-

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Our volunteer gardeners have been hard at work. Photo: Susan Wineberg

Your Museum And Society

Continued from page 1.

New doors have been re-hung in the rear of the Museum. Photo: Susan Wineberg

teresting items to sell and has now reproduced a copy of W.B. Hinsdale's ***The Indians of Washtenaw County*** published in the 1920s. It is available in the shop for $7.00. Also newly available is a reprint of the 1974 map of Lower Town, now updated but with the same drawings, including a Kemnitz, from the original map. The **Lower Town Historic District Study Committee** has reissued the map (our November program features Sabra Briere, the Chair of this committee).

Our garden is looking great thanks to the efforts of many people including **Pauline Walters, Sue Kosky, Judy Chrisman** and **Patty Creal**. Between them they've planted, watered and weeded all summer. And it shows! We recently heard from our former board member and garden coordinator **Pat Thompson** in Stony Brook, NY, who is caring for her ill parents. She has found landscaping projects on her parents' property and has discovered a huge Borders Book Store nearby which is full of gardening books. She especially recommended ***Gardens in China*** by Peter Valder. We wish her good luck.

Consortium Has Many Successes

The **Washtenaw County Historical Consortium** has proven to be a fun and workable umbrella group to showcase the historical and architectural treasures of Washtenaw County. A **full-color brochure** highlighting 26 historical attractions in the County has just been published. It is available at the Museum as well as at other venues and at the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureaus. Maps of individual areas can be found in it as well. Come by and pick one up!

A second project of the Consortium, a **throw** featuring some of these historical attractions, was available for sale at the Art Fair booth. Although much interest was shown, none were purchased at the fair. However, we have sold or distributed 130 of the first batch and have ordered another 100. They have proven popular with the public and at the cost of $50 (plus tax) would make a wonderful gift for a lover of history in Washtenaw County.

A third project this year was to have a **booth at Art Fair** which was staffed by members of the WCHS, Cobblestone Farm and Kempf House. This was an experiment and we shall see if we will do it again. Three cheers to **Louisa Pieper** who has been actively working on all these projects and organized the booth at the fair. She seems to have boundless amounts of energy!

Collections

We were recently presented with a very good copy of the 1881 **History of Washtenaw County** by Chapman, a dedication pamphlet for the **Ypsilanti Methodist Church** from 1912, an old laundry receipt from **W.H. Sweet** in Ypsilanti, and a 1954 ***Impressions*** addressed to Mrs. Helen Grant, 2224 Dixboro Road. The donor was **Dianna Grant** of Orange City, Florida, who also happens to be a descendant of the Matteson family. Fortuitously, the **Matteson Barn** in Ann Arbor Township on Dixboro Road, now owned by the University of Michigan's **Matthaei Botanical Garden**, is currently being restored. A long article appeared in the ***Ann Arbor News*** (July 30) about this barn restoration and others which are planned. The Botanical Gardens has issued a small brochure about the entire property, which sits on the edge of the prairie and oak savanna along Fleming Creek. It can provide visitors with "an increasingly rare first-hand reminder of the fundamental relationship between people, plants and the land." The brochure is a very handy summation of the glacial history of Washtenaw County, the earliest settlers, the Matteson Farm history and the Matteson Barns in particular. The smaller barn is a rare survivor, dating from the 1840s. The younger barn dates to 1890 and it was the one restored.

Our Collections Chair, **Judy Chrisman**, has been hard at work all summer. We must vacate our storage facility at Willow Run and so a sense of urgency has forced her and many volunteers to make tough decisions about our artifacts. As a result, the three mantels in our collections which belonged to Gordon Hall have been returned to the Dexter Area Historical Society along with a bas relief of Katharine Dexter McCormick. The Ypsilanti Fire Museum will display our fire cart wheel, and our ox cart wheels are being given to the Cobblestone Farm, along with a grinding wheel and an ox yoke. We have five interesting clocks in various states of repair and two of them will be restored by a local man in Saline. One dates to 1830 and has wooden works. The tall clock will be restored and used in the museum.

Program Schedule 2003-2004

Vice President and Program Chair **Ralph Beebe** has done a fantastic job of planning interesting programs and venues for the upcoming year. All programs are held the third Sunday of the month at 2 PM. The talks are free and open to the public. Members receive a post card before the meeting with instructions on how to reach the lecture. Light refreshments are served after the lecture.

SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 21 • 2 PM
COURTHOUSE SQUARE BUILDING
100 S. FOURTH AVENUE

Lorri Sipes, principal in the architecture firm **SmithGroup** (and formerly a principal in the firm **Architects 4**) will be speaking on the many surprises her firm has discovered while renovating many local buildings which include such gems as the Michigan Theater.

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 19 • 2 PM
UNIVERSITY COMMONS
817 ASA GRAY DRIVE

Lt. Michael Logghe, author of *The Crimes and the History of the Ann Arbor Police Department*, will speak about his book and some of the lurid crimes committed in Ann Arbor. Lt. Logghe is an engaging speaker and has lots of tales to tell.

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 16 • 2 PM
GLACIER HILLS HANSEN ROOM
1200 EARHART RD.

Sabra Briere, Chair of the Lower Town Historic District Study Committee, will talk about historic preservation and the proposed **Lower Town Historic District**. Lower Town is the area on the north side of the Broadway Bridge which was once separate from Ann Arbor. It contains some of Ann Arbor's oldest homes, many of which are associated with the Underground Railroad.

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 15 • 2 PM
SALINE DISTRICT LIBRARY
555 MAPLE RD.

Sue Kosky, WCHS Board Member, manager of our Museum Shop and one of our dedicated gardeners, will lecture on her book on **Historic Saline**. This book another item in the Arcadia series on "Images of America" which Grace Shackman's books were part of as well.

SUNDAY • MARCH 21 • 2 PM
RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER
YPSILANTI • 76 N. HURON ST.

Barry LaRue, Ypsilanti City Council member and historic preservation activist, will lecture on Ypsilanti's Historic Buildings. He served for nine years on Ypsilanti's Historic District Commission and is a past board member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. He is also active on the board of the Riverside Arts Center, the 1909 former Masonic Temple building. He and his wife live in a 150-year-old house which they are lovingly restoring.

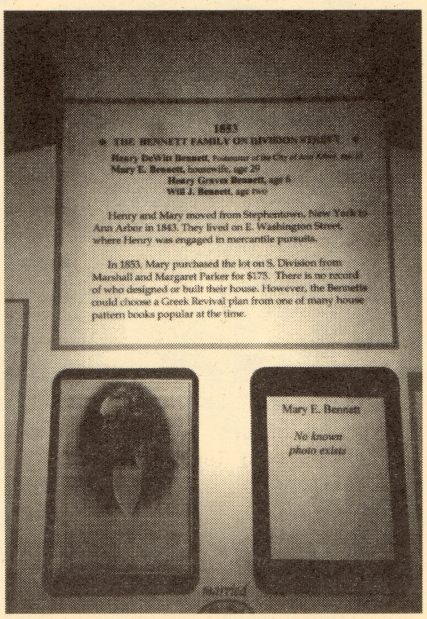
SUNDAY • APRIL 18 • 2 PM
COURTHOUSE SQUARE BUILDING
100 S. FOURTH AVENUE

Ray Detter, Louisa Pieper and **Grace Shackman** will talk about the **Street Exhibits Program**, the **Downtown Historical Marker program** that is getting rave reviews all over the U.S. and winning awards as well. You've probably noticed markers of glass in the sidewalks around town, with old photographs of buildings no longer standing. A new group of "frames" as they are called, which are scattered around the campus and deal with University history, was dedicated in July.

WEDNESDAY • MAY 19 • 6 PM
TBA

Our **Annual Meeting** will be held on this date. Location to be announced at a future date.

Around The Town



The Kempf House mounted an exhibit in June on Henry DeWitt Bennett, the builder of their 1853 house at 312 S. Division.

The **Old West Side Association** holds its 31st **Annual Homes Tour** this year on **Sunday, September 21**, from noon-5 PM. Featured this year will be six houses including several Tudors, a bungalow and a condominium. The business featured this year will be The **Old Town Tavern**. They believe that the Old Town is the oldest continuously operating bar in the state of Michigan. It opened ca. 1878 as **Geo. A. Weidelich's Saloon**. Many stores around town will be selling tickets. This is always a wonderful event and showcases the Old West Side Historic District. **Grace Shackman** and **Dan Madaj** deserve a round of applause but this is a great group effort as well and is planned a year in advance! For more information visit their website at **www.oldwestside.org.**

Kempf House continues to celebrate **the Sesquicentennial** of its building at **312 S. Division** with another special exhibit. This one, entitled **Backyard Treasures: Findings from the Kempf House Archaeological Dig**, will be up from **September 7-30, Wednesdays** and **Sundays**, 1-4 PM and by appointment. Call **734-994-4898**. Earlier this year they celebrated

Around The Town (continued)

Our legislators, mayors, former mayors and former UM presidents help dedicate the historical marker of the Street Exhibit Program in July. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

this house with an exhibit on its first occupant, **Henry D. Bennett**, a former Ann Arbor Postmaster (1851-1859) and Secretary of the University of Michigan (1869-1883).

Kempf House also continues its tradition of **Wednesday Noon Lectures** which will begin **September 10** with a lecture by **Stephanie Kadel Taras** on family history. On **September 17**, **Ray Detter** and **Louisa Pieper** will talk on the award-winning ***Street Exhibit Program*** and on **September 24, Mary Ann Glynn** will lecture on ***Martha Stewart Living Magazine.*** The series continues **October 1** with **Nawal Motawi** discussing the family's ***Motawi Tile works***; on **October 8** with **Gary Haase** discussing ***Rare Flora and Fauna of the Kitty Todd Reserve*** near Toledo; **October 15** with **Alfreda Manlove** on ***Humor and Horror in Probate***; **October 22** with **John U. Bacon** on ***Fielding Yost the Empire Builder***, and ending on **October 29th** with **James Tobin** discussing ***The Enduring Image of the Wright Brothers.*** Bring a lunch, eat in the dining room and enjoy the lecture in the intimate spaces of this 1854 house. Members pay $1.00 and non-members pay $2.00.

The **Cobblestone Farm** newsletter reported that architect and board member **Laurie Borer** is researching historic documents to replicate the chicken coop that will be erected east of the barnyard. The foundation of the existing corncrib gives clues to the basic construction, says Borer, but they are looking for more information on the interior. Anyone who can help should call **734-994-2928.** Also underway is a restoration of the cabin by **M&M Log Home Care** of Traverse City. **Mike Lautner** and his crew will be replacing several logs which are being destroyed by carpenter ants. Apparently Lautner encourages kids to put their ears to the logs so they can hear the ants munching away as they build their homes in the logs. The cabin, dating to 1846, was moved to the farm in 1982 from Willis, Michigan. It now serves as a pioneer museum and base for the Children's Pioneer Living Program. The City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation, which owns and manages the daily operations of the Farm in a partnership with the Cobblestone Farm Association, runs this program.

A special **Fall Living History** event called ***"Fall Harvest at the Farm"*** will be held on **Sunday, September 28,** from 12-4 PM. Costumed presenters and reenactors will depict mid-19th century farm routines and preparations for winter. Traditional lawn games for children such as hoops and stilts can be enjoyed. Admission is $2 for children and $8 for families. Current members of the **Cobblestone Farm Association** are admitted free and memberships can be purchased at the event. Call **George Taylor 734-434-4753** or **Jane Carr 734-483-0559** for more information.

The **Cobblestone Farm Association,** which publishes the newsletter, is a group dedicated to improving and researching the architectural features of this unique structure. Benajah Ticknor built the cobblestone portion of the farm in 1844, while the rear was constructed by the Maynard family in the 1820s. The house is located at **2781 Packard Road.** Many special events are planned and the barn is available for rental for parties. To rent the barn or schedule group tours, call **734-994-2928.**

The **University of Michigan Detroit Observatory** is up and running after a long summer rest. The first lecture in their annual series will be **Tuesday, September 23,** 3 PM when **Robert Payne** will discuss ***Bird Studies at the UM Museum of Zoology.*** On **Tuesday, October 21,** 3 PM, **Nan Hodges** will lecture on ***Harriet Low: An American Woman's Journey in China, 1829-1834.*** On **Tuesday, November 18**, 3 PM, **Brian Dunnigan** will speak on ***Mackinac Before Photography: Artists, Travelers and Cartographers.*** On **Tuesday, December 2**, 3 PM, **Sally Bund** will lecture on ***Albert Kahn, Master of American Industrial Architecture.*** Tours of this marvelous 1854 Observatory are planned

This marker of the Street Exhibit Program is dedicated to the history of the University of Michigan. Photo: Susan

for **Wednesdays, September 17, October 15, October 29, November 5, November 19, December 3** and **December 10**. All tours are from 1-4 PM. Students are free and a $5 donation is suggested for admission. This Observatory with its original 19th century instruments is a recently restored gem whose mission is to highlight the history of the observatory, the University and the beginnings of scientific research on the UM campus. It is located at **1398 E. Ann St.** and seating is limited to 40 people. Call **734-763-2230**, visit their website at **www.DetroitObservatory.umich.edu** or email them at **DetroitObservatory@umich.edu.**

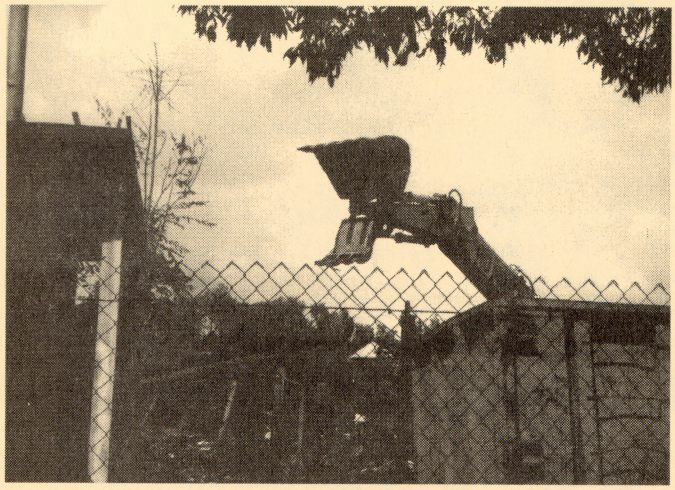
On July 1, the **Street Exhibit Program** held a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil six more 'frames' (free standing structures of glass with sandwiched vintage photographs and text) on local history, this time encompassing the area around the UM campus. On hand to speak were former mayors and UM presidents, the current president of the University, our representatives in Lansing, alumni, friends, and descendants of former UM presidents. **Ray Detter,** director of the project, welcomed the lively crowd and a reception was held in Alumni Hall (UM Museum of Art). The newest installations focus on the University's contribution to local history. Earlier frames in the Main Street area have won numerous awards this past year. The installation began in 1999 and one more site is planned for Depot Street when the Broadway Bridges Project is completed. **Louisa Pieper** and **Grace Shackman** have been the guiding force behind this massive undertaking.

Another **archaeological dig** was undertaken by archaeologist **Scott Beld** and **Professor Henry T. Wright** of the UM Department of Anthropology. They excavated behind the historic **Lund House**, built in 1847 at **1324 Pontiac Trail,** searching for clues to Ann Arbor's earliest history. Many household objects, such as English pottery and iron door latches, can reveal much about the early settlers. But the real mystery to them is to learn the use of the intriguing round tower in the back of the house. Was it a grain silo? A pigeon cote? A water tower? We'll keep you posted.

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** is a great resource for those doing research in this area. They have regular programs on the fourth Sunday of each month from September to June, maintain a library at 914 Hill Street, publish a quarterly newsletter, answer queries at no charge and do a limited amount of research on request. You can reach them at **734-995-0211**, PO Box 7155, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-7155, or on the web at **www.hvcn.org/info/gswc.** Their first program this year will be on **Sunday, September 28. Virginia Bailey Parker** will speak on **"*Collecting Family Stories: Blending Oral History* and *Genealogy*."** **Bobbi Snow,** whose topic will be "***A Demo of Legacy Family Tree, Version 4.0, a Genealogy Recording Software for Windows,***" will conduct the class afterwards. The meeting is in the Auditorium of the Education Center of St. Joseph Hospital Complex at 5305 Elliott Dr. Look for parking lot "P" and their signs.

On **Sunday, October 26,** the Genealogical Society will be conducting a **bus tour of the State Library in Lansing.** It will leave at 12:30 and return at 6:15. The cost is $12.50/person and checks must be received by October 10. To reserve a spot, send check to Jessie Siekmeier, 2680 Craig Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. The tour gives you time to do genealogical research and attend a 30-45 minute library tour of genealogical resources.

The buildings of the former "**Tech Center,**" which were actually the factories built by **American Broach** dating to **1912** and later, were demolished in July after obtaining a final OK from the Historic District Commission. While under demolition the building caught fire and the spectacular blaze was visible from many parts of town and cast a smoky haze over diners at restaurants on Main Street. This entire square block will soon become the home for a new "Y" which will dazzle the onlooker when completed.



The demolition of the former "Tech Center", actually the buildings of American Broach which dated back to 1912, was completed in July. Photo: Susan Wineberg

Thank You

A few months ago we published a photo of the old **Whitmore Lake Bridge** taken in 1917 looking south from Main St. at **California Avenue**, a name no one recognized. But we got a call from **Bill Davis** of **Barton Hills Village** who explained that it was one of the streets platted for the village but never constructed in the 1920s. It would have been on the north side of the river parallel to Barton Shore Drive. Today, the bridge to Bandemer Park is where this one used to be. It was a twin of the Foster Bridge, just recently restored (see **Around the County**). Thank you for enlightening us on this small point!

We were also given a book by **Ellen Teller** entitled **Reflections on a Life Well Lived, Cora deGraff Heinemann** which was published this year by Teller and Alan Fisher. The book relates indirectly to **Elijah Morgan**, one of the earliest settlers of Ann Arbor and at one point its richest citizen. His relatives (he had no children) were some of the ancestors of the book's subject as well as of the author. These folks lived in the Kalamazoo area and this book is a rich resource for anyone doing genealogy in that part of the world. Many thanks to Ellen deGraff Teller for presenting me a copy of this book.

Around The County

The **Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation** held its **Homes Tour** August 16 and the excitement of all the restoration going on in Ypsi is contagious! Many lovely homes were on the tour and while driving to them we can see the progress being made on many fronts. In May at their Marker Banquet they selected four houses to receive historic plaques. What is most exciting is the transformation occurring along Michigan Avenue with the re-opening of the former library, now restored to its original beauty and the renovation of many of the Italianate commercial blocks in the area. They are "lookin' good!"

The Ypsi Heritage Foundation ***lecture series*** begins **Wednesday, September 24** with a talk by **Mary Baker** on "***Collecting Inkwells.***" On **Wednesday, November 19, John Harrington** talks on ***The History of Printing***. More lectures are planned for the winter as well. For more information you can visit their website at **www.yhf.org** or contact **Penny Schreiber** at **734-483-5688.**

The **Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Collection**, run by Jack Miller, was looking like it was going to be closed for lack of funds. However, the community has rallied and donations are pouring in. By late July more than $43,000 had been raised. The aim is to raise $104,000 to match a state grant of $140,000. The museum began in 1995 and was largely funded by **Skip Ungrodt** who died in January. We're hoping they succeed since this is a truly wonderful collection and museum. If you can help, call **Jack Miller** at **734-482-5200.**

The campus at **Eastern Michigan University** might look very different in a few years. A campus planning team is evaluating all the buildings on campus and many graduates of the historic preservation program are advocating they restore some of the buildings rather than demolish them. Several **WPA buildings** in the **Art Deco style** are being looked at for possible demolition. We'll keep you posted. Meanwhile, **Ted Ligibel,** Director of the Program in Historic Preservation, announced they have one of the largest incoming classes in years, with over 23 new students entering the program.

The **McKune Library** in **Chelsea** may again be used and restored for library use, with a new building constructed in the rear. The cost is estimated to be $8.2 million and a millage will have to be passed to fund it. Planners learned that citizens wanted something smaller than the building proposed in 1999, when a bond issue was defeated. The library is housed in the former home of one of the founders of Chelsea, **Elisha Congdon,** who built it in the 1850s. It is known by the name of its second owner, **Timothy McKune,** whose wife donated it to the town for a library.

The **Saline Area Historical Society** recently dedicated a **restored porch** at the historic **Rentschler Farm** in July. They celebrated all night with a Big Band, scented plants and ice cream, to recreate a 'summer evening on the farm.' The farm is open every Saturday from May through September from 11AM-3 PM. From September-April on every third Wednesday of the month, the Society has free lectures at the **Saline Railroad Depot** at 402 N. Ann Arbor St. Topics of historical interest are the norm. Call **734-944-0442** to learn more.

The **Milan Area Historical Society** will host a program on **Tuesday, September 16** showcasing a fully **restored Maxwell automobile.** Owner **Vern Campbell** will talk about his car which will be on display at the Hack House, 775 County St. in Milan. The program begins at 7:30.

Gladys Saborio, our new board member, is getting publicity in the local press on her search for historical plaques on large boulders which marked pioneer settlements along US-12, a.k.a. Michigan Avenue or the Sauk Trail. Saborio learned that scores of women's clubs put up these commemorative markers in the 1920s and she's been on a mission ever since. Still missing is the marker placed where US12 crosses M-50 (the historic Monroe Turnpike) in Lenawee County. Saborio still searches with help from members of the group promoting the designation of **US-12** as a **Michigan Heritage Route.** She believes the missing stone may have been removed by the State when it reconfigured the two roads. Maybe someday it will turn up!

Several Washtenaw County Bridges have become focal points of late—one for restoration and the other for imminent demolition. The **Foster Bridge** which crosses the Huron River at Maple, is being restored with the help of $225,000 donated by the Village of Barton Hills, which cannot spend its share of gas tax money on its own private roads. The Washtenaw County Road Commission is funding the rest of the restoration. The bridge, which is an iron-trussed bridge well over 100 years old, was saved by members of the **Citizens for Foster Bridge Conservancy**. Their advocacy (and the money donation) convinced the road commission that they should preserve the charm of the old bridge and the community spirit that its one lane requires.

A second bridge in **Bridgewater Township,** the **last Bailey Bridge in Michigan**, may not fare so well. Here the Road Commission is insisting that this one lane bridge should be replaced by a $600,000 modern one. The bridge has been designated as historic by the State of Michigan and crosses the Raisin River in an unpopulated area. According to **Jean King** of the **Washtenaw County Historic District Commission**, this bridge could easily be repaired for $12,000. This bridge carries 170 vehicles a day while Foster Bridge carries 2,000. King wonders why the double standard and hopes the local opponents to this misguided project will win the day. We hope so too.

Pittsfield Township is still struggling to develop its plans for the **1832 farmhouse** on Textile Road that they bought in 2000 to turn into a farm museum. They haven't yet started a major fund-raising drive because they don't have an approved plan and township officials are still trying to work with the **Pittsfield Township Historical Society** to come up with one. Known as the **Sutherland-Wilson Farm,** the property is one of the oldest farms in the township and is a **designated Michigan Centennial Farm.** This problem was reported in June so perhaps things have moved along since then.

Pittsfield Township also commissioned an **archaeological dig** by **April Beisaw**, who we reported last time had excavated

around the Kempf House searching for the outhouse, among other things (these items will be on display there in September). Here Beisaw excavated what they hoped would be the foundations of the **1852 Town Hall School.** This school was torn down in 1895 when it was replaced by another school. This later school was moved to the campus of EMU in 1987 where it serves as a school museum. Eight volunteers helped and their finds included nails, window glass, a soapstone pencil, pottery and copper. Maybe there is another exhibit in the offing?

The *Ann Arbor News* on August 18th ran a story and photo of the **Greek Revival** upright and wing home at **3075 Baker Road** in **Dexter.** Its owner, **Richard Murray,** wants to restore it, but it has been an eyesore for many years and residents want it fixed up or demolished. It was his grandparent's home and he has an emotional attachment to it and it clearly dates from the 1840s or 1850s and would be lovely if restored. We hope he knows about the historic preservation tax credits!

And the big news in rural preservation here is the **merging** of two preservation groups—the **Washtenaw Land Trust** and the **Waterloo Land Conservancy** which is in the eastern part of Jackson County. The latter thought the merger a good idea and suggested it, hoping that by joining WLT they'd be a stronger presence in their area. WLT is happy to have new volunteers and a list of landowners who are interested in conservation easement. The WLT also purchased land development rights from dairy farmer **Jim Vershum** of **Bridgewater Township**. These **117 acres** are part of a larger parcel he farms and he hopes will remain rural in character.

WLT also honored the owners of 140 **Centennial Farms** in June during an awards picnic at Independence Lake Park. This is a **State of Michigan** program recognizing working farms of 10 acres or more that have been owned continuously by the same family for 100 years or more.

Also working towards **land preservation** is the **Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission** which is charged with implementing the plan approved by voters in 2000. As the *Ann Arbor News* reported June 15, "now you can drive out Prospect Road, Liberty Road or Parker Road and see the first fruits of the voters' decision ...to protect thousands of acres of key fields, woods and wetlands from...development." To accomplish this the Parks and Rec Commission purchased **137 acres in Scio** (the De Vine Property), **185 acres** in **Freedom Township** (the Brauer property) and **64 acres** in **Superior Township** (the Meyer property) that will serve as a preserve. Also purchased in May was a **40-acre site** in **Webster Township** near Independence Lake which will be a new nature area. The next round of applications to be considered for purchase with these millage funds were due on June 30.

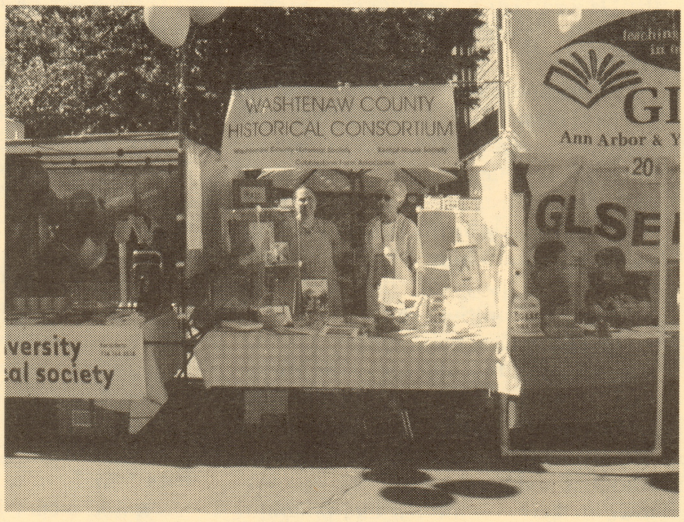
The **Yankee Air Museum** is having a reception on **Friday, September 12** with speaker **Tony Vaccarro** talking about his photographs on display. For tickets or more information call **734-483-4030 ext. 202.** You can also check their website at **www.yankeeairmuseum.org**. The Museum is at Willow Run Airport-East in Belleville. It consists of an indoor aircraft display, an outdoor airpark and numerous rooms devoted to specific aviation themes or time periods. It has a special interest in the manufacture of the **WWII B-24 Liberator bomber,** which was built on the west side of the airport and is displayed in a 1941 hangar.

Grand Traditions Vintage Dance has announced its Fall Schedule. They put on workshops and festive balls to illustrate mid and late-19th century dancing, polkas, and other dances from the Ragtime and Swing eras. All dances are held at the **Pittsfield Grange Hall,** Ann Arbor-Saline Road. For more details or their brochure, call **734-769-0041** or visit **www.vintagedance.com.** Prices are varied.

Success At Art Fair

Once again we collected $750 parking cars at Art Fair this year. **Julie Creal Goodridge** coordinated the volunteers and we'd like to thank her and them for their dedication. Helping us this year were **Greg** and **Ann DeFreytas, Rosemarion Blake, Patty Creal, Peggy** and **Andy Haines, Ralph Beebe, Judy Chrisman, Jay Snyder** and **Dick Galant**. Thanks also to **TCF Bank** for providing the parking lot space to us.

Other members of the WCHS volunteered at the **Washtenaw County Historical Consortium** booth which was on E. Liberty with all the non-profits. **Louisa Pieper** coordinated this effort, which was staffed by volunteers from WCHS, Cobblestone Farm and Kempf House. A total of $357.50 was made and $155.68 of that was for the WCHS. All told we made **$900** at Art Fair. Volunteers included **Elsie Dyke, Marjorie Reade, Mary Lirones, Judy Chrisman, Sue Kosky, Dick Galant, Randy LaHote, Dr. J. J. VanGasse,** and **myself**. Thanks to everyone for their time and effort—we couldn't do it without you!



JPEG photo of Jane Carr and Elsie Dyke manning the booth of the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium at the Ann Arbor Art Fair in July. Photo by Louisa Pieper

Beyond Washtenaw

Preservation Eastern, the student organization of the Preservation Program at EMU, is having its Fall Kick Off as a tour of one of Michigan's fantastic octagon barns. It will be held **Saturday, September 17** at 1 PM and will be the **Octagon Barn** in **Tuscola County** near Gagetown. The tour is open to PE members, alumni, family and friends and will take about two hours. For more information on the barn visit **www.thumboctagonbarn.org.** For more information on Preservation Eastern email **michellesponseller @hotmail.com.**

Just over the Washtenaw border in Jackson County, the **Waterloo Area Historical Society** will be hosting its **Pioneer Day** on **Sunday, October 12,** from noon-5 PM. This fall festival is a cornucopia of activities including rug hooking, spinning, quilting, and wagon rides. Fall produce and baked goods abound and the house and all outbuildings are open for tours. The Dewey School has special activities for children. There is an admission fee to the grounds. You should call and get directions from them at **517-851-8247** or visit their **website**.

The **Michigan Humanities Council** (MHC) is sponsoring an exhibit on barns with the centerpiece being **the Smithsonian** traveling exhibit known **as "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon."** This exhibit will tour the state **in 2004** from **January 23-November 14** making stops at sites from the UP to the Ohio border. It is organized by SITES and the National Building Museum with help from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In the Detroit Metro area, the site chosen will be in Novi and will feature the exhibit for six weeks. MHC is encouraging local communities to mount their own exhibits on barns in their area to complement this traveling exhibit. You can explore reading lists on their web pages at **www.museumonmainstreet.org/exhib_barn/barn.htm.** Or you can check out the website of the MHC at **michiganhumanities.org/.**

Governor Granholm announced four selections early this summer for the **Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Michigan Main Street** program. **Boyne City, Calumet, Marshall** and **Portland** will receive downtown makeovers through this program. The program, an offshoot of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, emphasizes design, organization, economic restructuring and promotion as the four keys to a successful downtown revitalization. The program began 25 years ago and has shown impressive results.

MEDC will be hosting a training program from **September 29-October 1** called "**Michigan Main Street Basics 101.**" It is available to all Michigan communities who want to learn about the National Trust's Main Street Program. This three-day training session costs $125 and all registration fees are due September 22. Call **Ellen Ross** at **517-373-6213** for more information.

The Plymouth Historical Museum has a new exhibit called ***"The Language of Quilts-Underground Railroad Quilts."*** The exhibit opened in July and will run through October. Check out the patterns known as Bear's Trail, Monkey Wrench, Drunkard's Path and Flying Geese and see how they helped slaves escape to Canada. The museum is located at 155 S. Main St in downtown Plymouth. Call **734-455-8940** for more information or visit their website at **www.plymouthlibrary.org/~history.** In June the museum announced it had invited theThree Cities Art club to paint three large murals for the museum's new Plymouth Timeline Exhibit. The **Three Cities Art Club** was founded in 1957 to serve Plymouth, Northville and Livonia and meetings are held at the Township Municipal Building on Ann Arbor Road at Lilley. They meet the first Monday of the month from September-June. Interested in joining? Call the Museum for more details.

There is also a new book out on Plymouth in the **Arcadia series**. Entitled ***Plymouth in* Vintage Postcards,** and written by **Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens,** you can buy it for $20 at the museum gift shop.

Members of a group called **Save The Pinckney Depot** are hoping to get over the last hurdles and finally begin to restore the old train shed on County Road D-19. The owner of the Depot is the State DNR and due to budget cuts they have been more willing to work with local groups to lease stations in Pinckney, Hamburg, Putnam and Unadilla townships for Livingston County's portion of the Lakelands Trail. Today only the freight shed remains, the original depot having been torn down in the 1950s. The group has raised money for the last three years in an attempt to restore the Depot and qualify for matching federal transportation funds. The group hopes to see the depot used for a small business or a public meeting space. But raising some $300,000 is no small task for such a small community. But they say they won't give up.

The State **History Conference** of the **Historical Society of Michigan** will be held in **Port Huron October 3-5.** You can find out more on their website at **www.hsofmich.org/.**

And last but not least, there's been a lot of action in and around **Detroit** over the summer. **Historic Fort Wayne** is officially launching group tours in September, costing $4/person with a 20-person minimum. They offer both an adult-oriented tour and a "Fort Patrol" for children. The Dossin **Great Lakes Museum** will also be offering **Belle Isle by Bus** guide service for the same price. A docent hops on your bus, guides you through the historic legends and landmarks of the park from the early landscape plans of **Frederick Law Olmsted** to the structures of **Albert Kahn**. All of this is under the purview of the **Detroit Historical Museums** which can be reached at **313-833-1419** or at their website **www.detroithistorical.org/**. You can find many things at this website including their famous **Historic Houses of Worship Tours** (some are already sold out!), and their **Sunday Strolls** series, as well as their current exhibits. Check them out!

The preservation news in Detroit continues to improve. In August the news was that the former **Michigan Central Railroad Depot** would be restored to be the new police headquarters. No final decision had been made, but many thought the mayor was favoring this scheme. The vacant **Madison-Lenox Hotel**, just steps from the Detroit Athletic Club, Comerica Park, Ford Field, and the Detroit Opera House, got a reprieve from demolition for a parking lot. The effort to restore the Madison-Lenox is being mounted by the same folks that pushed to restore the Book-Cadillac Hotel. Let's hope they are successful in this endeavor as well. And the restored home of Detroit preservationist **Marla Overhiser** was featured in a "Restore America" segment on HGTV in July. Marla has an Ann Arbor connection in that her father Martin was head of our Planning Department for many years. It was truly an unbelievable transformation of a decrepit ruin into an elegant structure again. Hats off to Marla!

Annual Meeting

Pauline Walters and George Taylor at the WCHS Annual Meeting in May. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

WCHS members enjoyed our annual potluck dinner at the Cobblestone Farm Barn.

Don and Jean Smith check out the 1820s kitchen in the Cobblestone Farm at the WCHS Annual Meeting. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

At the Annual Meeting held May 21, 2003 at Cobblestone Farm, we re-elected the following officers: **Pauline Walters**, President; **Ralph P. Beebe**, Vice-President; **Patricia Creal**, Treasurer; **Richard Galant**, Corresponding Secretary; **Judith Chrisman**, Recording Secretary, **Susan Wineberg**, Editor, Impressions. **Ann DeFreytas, Peggy Haines, Susan Kosky** and **Jay Snyder** were elected as directors with terms ending in May 2006. **Patricia Austin** was elected to fill the slot of **Patricia Thompson** as Director for a one-year term ending in May 2004. **Roy Reynolds** was elected to fill the vacant position of Director for a one-year term ending in May 2004. **Stephen M. Morris** was elected for a two-year term ending in May 2005 to fill the position of **Julie Creal Goodridge** who resigned as Director. Mr. Morris resigned shortly thereafter for personal reasons and **Gladys Saborio** was appointed to fill his position. **David LaMoreaux** was elected to the Endowment Committee for a two-year term. We thank all of our board members for their dedication and hard work in helping us run the Society and the Museum on Main Street.

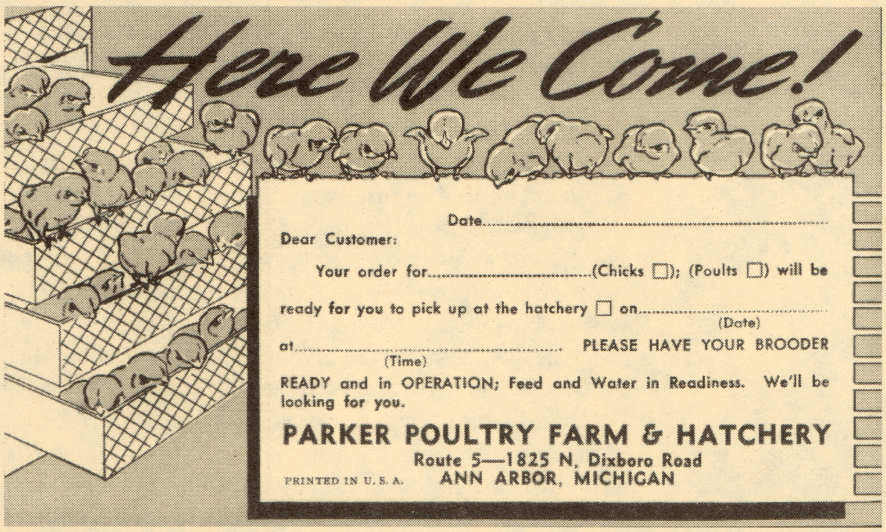
Members attending the meeting also voted for a **Bylaw Change**. This resulted in both our fiscal year and our membership year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Article XI, Section 2 and Article XIII were amended to accomplish this.

Kudos

Congratulations to Quinn **Evans Architects** whose work on the UM's S.T. Dana Building was featured in the July issue of **Architectural Record.** The focus was on combining historic preservation with "green" design since this building houses the UM's School of Natural Resources. The 1903 building, which was first built as the UM Medical School, now has a renewed life and is energy efficient.

A new magazine came out last month entitled **Ann Arbor Magazine** and the cover featured the front door of the Greek Revival home of **Ilene** and **Norm Tyler** at **126 N. Division Street**. Not unexpectedly, Ilene works for **Quinn|Evans**! The introduction from the editor noted that they had searched for the right door for weeks, but after attending the Preservation Ladies luncheon there "we knew we had found our home and our front door." The magazine is full of interesting articles on local businesses and personalities and we hope they succeed. The Tylers are really becoming celebrities since they've purchased this home. They were recently interviewed and filmed by HGTV and will appear in the winter on their "If Walls Could Talk" program.

Remember When?



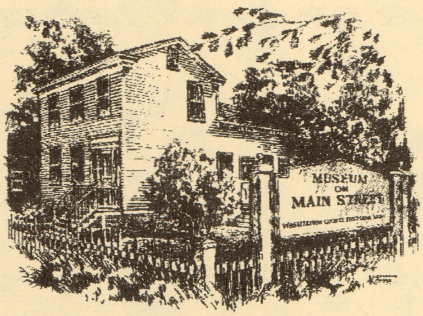
Here's another little item from Ebay that I couldn't resist buying. The Parker Poultry Farm buildings still stand today, just west of the **Parker Mill County Park**. The **Parker Centennial Farm,** an unusual all fieldstone building, can be seen through the dense foliage at the corner of Dixboro and Geddes Roads. The property has been for sale for a long time so check it out now. Does anyone remember when this poultry farm was in operation?

Christmas Already

Pauline is already thinking ahead to November and December and our Annual Holiday Exhibit. We are looking for more **dollhouses** and **antique toys**. If you have any, please contact her at **734-662-9092**. Your item, if loaned, will be credited to you and will be in a safe and secure environment.

Sad News

We extend our condolences to **Howdy Holmes** of **Chelsea Milling**, one of our biggest supporters, on the death of his mother. Their names have been intimately connected with **Jiffy Mix** and Chelsea and her passing was a great loss to our entire community.



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